

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as currently amended, and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 3-5, and 9-26 are currently pending in the application; new Claims 25 and 26 have been added; and Claim 7 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by the present amendment. New Claims 25 and 26 correspond to original Claims 6 and 7 respectively. Thus, no new matter is presented.

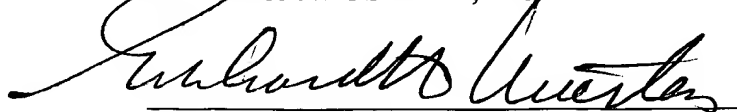
In the outstanding Official Action, Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirose (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,468) in view of Amano et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,226,012). Claims 3-5, and 9-24 were indicated as being allowed. Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable claims.

With the cancellation of Claim 7, the outstanding prior art rejection has been rendered moot. Further, new Claims 25 and 26 correspond to original Claims 6 and 7 respectively, and depend from allowed independent Claim 9. Therefore, no new matter is added and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance.

If the Examiner believes any additional formal matter need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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